# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

"A Tradition of Service"

#### OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE:

May 9, 2016

FROM:

DAVID E. HALM, COMMANDER

EAST PATROL DIVISION

TO: JACK W. EWELL, CAPTAIN

SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT BUREAU

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE FORCE REVIEW COMMITTEE FINDINGS

Case Number:

FO2380016

Incident:

Use of Force

Incident Date:

May 21, 2015

Unit:

Special Enforcement Bureau

Suspect:

Cook, Nancy FW/092841

Involved Employees:

Deputy #
Deputy Gilbert Jurado #
Deputy #

EFRC Date:

May 9, 2016

The Executive Force Review Committee (EFRC) consisting of Commanders David E. Halm, Michael R. Claus, and John S. Benedict met and reviewed the above case.

#### FINDINGS:

The EFRC determined the use of force and tactics were within Department policy.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

The EFRC made no recommendations.

DEH:TLB:tlb

Los Angele County Sheriff's Tepartment Supervisor's Report on Use of Force Page Page 1 of 6

					Inc	ident Infor	mation						
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SH-R-438P (Rev. 01/13)

FO#

# Suprvisor's Report on Use of Fore INVOLVED EMPLOYEE - Continuation

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Page 2 of 6

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# Survisor's Report on Use of Fore SUSPECT INFORMATION

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# Su prvisor's Report on Use of Fore EMPLOYEE / NON-EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

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# Supervisor's Report on Use of Force

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#### Method

Type of Injury

(AB) Abrasion

(CO) Concussion

(DI) Dislocation

(BR) Bruise

(BU) Burn

(DH) Death

(DB) Dog Bite

(FR) Fractures

(GS) Gunshot

(LC) Lacerations

(CP) Complaint of Pain (HB) Human Bite

(AW)	Arwen	(FH)	Firearm (Handgun)	(PO)	Personal Weapon (Other)
(BC)	Baton: (Control)	(FR)	Firearm (Rifle)	(RS)	Resistance
(BI)	Baton: (Impact)	(FS)	Firearm (Shotgun)	(RO)	Restraint Device (Other)
(BF)	Bodily Fluids	(FO)	Firearm (Other)	(RH)	Restraint Device (Handcuffs)
(CN)	Canine	(FB)	Flashbang	(HB)	Restraint Device: Hobble (Legs Only)
(CR)	Carotid Restraint	(FL)	Flashlight	(TP)	Restraint Device: Hobble (TARP)
(CH)	Choke Hold	(OE)	Other Weapon: Edged	(RE)	Restraint Device: REACT Belt
(CT)	Control Holds: (Control Techniques)	(OV)	Other Weapon: Vehicle	(SP)	Sap
(TT)	Control Holds: (Team Takedown)	(OB)	Other Weapon: Blunt Object	(SH)	Shield
(TD)	Control Holds: (Takedown)	(00)	Other Weapon: Other	(IR)	Less Lethal Impact Round (other)
(CE)	Chemical	(PK)	Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Kick)	(SB)	Sting Ball
(OC)	Chemical Agents (OC Spray)	(PS)	Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Sweep)	(ST)	Stun Bag
(TG)	Chemical Agents (Tear Gas)	(PH)	Personal Weapon (Hand/Arm)	(TR)	Taser
(EX)	Explosives	(PP)	Personal Weapon (Push)	(UC)	Uncooperative
				(HR)	High Risk

(PA) Paralysis

(PW) Puncture Wound

(ST) Sprain/Twists

(UN) Unconscious

(ND) Nerve Damage (RM) Refused Med Treatment

(OD) Organ Damage (NN) NONE

(SD) Soft Tissue Damage

Body Part Involved
(AD) Abdomen (FA)

(AK) Ankle

(AR) Arm

(BK) Back

(CH) Chest

(EL) Elbow

(BT) Buttocks

(FA) Face

(FE) Feet

(FI) Fingers

(GE) Genitals

(GR) Groin

(HD) Hands

(HE) Head

(HI)

(IN)

(KN)

(LE)

(NK)

(NO)

(SH)

(WR) Wrist

Hip

Leg

Neck

Nose

Shoulder

Internal

Knees

FORCE USE	D BY	FORCE USED A	GAINST	Method	Type of Injury	Body Part
Name	E# or S#	Name	E# or S#	(Code)	(Code)	(Code)
Cook	S#1		E#1	HR	NN	N/A
	E#1	Cook	S#1	IR	BR	LE
	E#2	Cook	S#1	IR	BR	AR
	E#4	Cook	S#1	TR	NN	N/A
Jurado	E#3	Cook	S#1	CN	FR	LE
Jurado	E#3	Cook	S#1	CN	FR	HD

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Primary Handler: Jurado, Gilbert #  Assist Handler: #  Assist Handler: #  Assist Handler: #  TYPE OF SEARCH  Area Other:	Canine: Tico
Building  TYPE OF INCIDENT  Bite  Other:	<ul> <li>☑ Apprehending Suspect</li> <li>☐ Conducting Search</li> <li>☐ Protecting Handler</li> <li>☐ Other:</li> </ul>
ANNOU  Announcements Were Made  None (Reason):  Announcement Made by: Deputy Jurado  Criminal History	NCEMENTS
	Notifications

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

#### INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

INCIDENT: Use of Force, Skeletal Fracture

IAB FILE NUMBERS: FO 2380016

URN#: 015-02964-2216-051

DATE/TIME: May 21, 2015, 0544 hours

LOCATION: Topanga Canyon Boulevard # Topanga

#### SYNOPSIS

On May 22, 2015, an Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) rollout team comprised of Lieutenant David Flores, Sergeant Daniel Martin, and Sergeant Jose Uribe responded to Lost Hills Sheriff's Station jurisdiction regarding a use of force that resulted from a barricaded suspect. The Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) used force, which resulted in skeletal fractures to the suspect's right hand and lower right leg. She was hospitalized due to her altered mental state, the injuries she sustained, hypothermia, an elevated white blood cell count, and high blood potassium level. This case was assigned to Sergeant Daniel Martin and later reassigned to Sergeant Eric Barron. This Special Enforcement Bureau operation lasted twenty one hours. During the incident, SEB members continually asked the suspect to surrender. Additionally, prior to taking any action, team members administered warnings; and after any action taken, SEB members immediately followed with orders to surrender.

## SUMMARY

On May 21, 2015, at approximately 0544 hours, the suspect in this case, Nancy Cook, called 9-1-1 to report her vehicle embezzled. Suspect Cook appeared to sound impatient on the phone with regard to the response by the Sheriff's Department. She additionally complained of chest pain, and possible heart attack, which then elicited an emergent (Code-3) response from the fire department and Lost Hills Station personnel.

Unit 224A, Deputy Jeffry Miner (# and Deputy Eugene Ubryan (# responded Code-3 to Suspect Cook's residence at Topanga Canyon Boulevard, which was a mobile home complex. They arrived on scene, accompanied by Los Angeles County Fire Department, Engine #68, commanded by Captain Arlin Kahan. Suspect Cook informed the 9-1-1 dispatcher she would be waiting near the clubhouse to the complex. When Suspect Cook was not readily located, Deputy Ubryan checked the rear of the location, while Deputy Miner remained toward the front. Moments later, Suspect Cook emerged from the west side of the clubhouse and walked toward fire

department personnel. Paramedic Phillip Rivera, Captain Kahan, and McCormick ambulance personnel Tyler Rosser attended to Suspect Cook while Deputy Miner broadcast, via handheld radio, the incident was under control and being handled by medical personnel.

Immediately after Deputy Miner's broadcast, he saw the emergency personnel quickly backing away in fear of Suspect Cook, and fleeing in different directions. Deputy Miner approached the suspect to investigate and saw Suspect Cook reach into her waist area and retrieve a black revolver. Suspect Cook pointed the firearm in the direction of the emergency personnel as they fled. Deputy Miner drew his firearm, pointed it at Suspect Cook, and ordered her to drop her weapon. For a brief moment, his line of fire was obstructed by one of the fire department personnel running in front of him. During this time, Suspect Cook fled westbound toward mobile home space Deputy Miner ordered the suspect several more times to drop her weapon, but she refused and yelled out, "No, I'm going to kill anyone who will try to get me." Deputy Miner lost sight of Suspect Cook as she ran in between mobile homes # and # When Suspect Cook fled into the backyard of space # the resident living there, her and told her to leave the property. Suspect Cook refused to leave and pointed her gun at him. Mr.

Deputy Miner requested assistance and coordinated a containment of the area. As assisting units arrived on scene, they evacuated the area and established a command post. Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) and the Crisis Negotiations Team (CNT) were requested to assist with the incident.

The SEB – Blue Team, under SWAT Team Commander Lieutenant Michael O'Shea, # and SWAT Team Leader Sergeant Sean Burke, # responded for the operation. They initially setup an arrest team on the "1-2" corner of space # 100 corner of space # 100

IAB Note: SEB assigns numerical values when describing the sides of a structure for tactical purposes. The front side of a structure is the number one side. The numbers increase clockwise.

From their vantage point, they could hear the suspect rambling incoherently. They estimated her position to be 30 yards down the "2" side of the property, tucked into an alcove. AERO Bureau had a partial view of Suspect Cook's position, and confirmed she was armed with a handgun. In order to safely contact the suspect, a mobile robot, "AVATAR 3," with onboard camera and communication system was utilized. They remotely maneuvered the robot toward Suspect Cook's position. As soon as Suspect Cook obtained a visual of the robot, she fired two rounds from her handgun in its direction, but missed. Deputy John Montenegro (# was controlling the robot, and with each attempt to speak with Suspect Cook via the onboard microphone, she pointed her gun in the direction of the robot. She alternated between pointing her gun at the robot, and the helicopter as it circled above. The robot's camera system only allowed real time viewing and did not have a recording capability.

Deputy Montenegro maintained a visual of Suspect Cook via the robot, and saw Suspect Cook set down her firearm several times, while rambling incoherently. The Crisis Negotiations Team (Sergeants Harry Drucker # and Anna Briz # attempted to communicate with Suspect Cook via the onboard microphone system on the robot; however, Suspect Cook appeared to get further agitated with each attempt. Suspect Cook fired an additional round at the robot while CNT and Deputy Montenegro tried to speak with her.

Sergeant Burke was assigned as the Team Leader for the operation, and was responsible for presenting the command staff with tactical options for safely resolving the situation. As soon as a plan was developed, it was presented to the Team Commander, Lieutenant O'Shea, who in turn, presented the plan to the SEB Unit Commander, Acting Captain, Lieutenant Bruce Chase, # Prior to execution of any tactical plan, Lieutenant Chase presented the information to the Tactical Commander, Commander David Halm, #

IAB Note:

The responsibility of the command staff was to review all tactical plans and make adjustments where needed. The Tactical Commander approved all tactical operations prior to their execution.

The initial tactical plan was to introduce chemical agents to overwhelm Suspect Cook's senses with the effects of the gas irritants. By changing the environment, Suspect Cook would presumably surrender. The chemical agents were employed on various areas around the mobile home. From the robot camera system, Deputy Montenegro observed the dispersal of the tear gas, which reached Suspect Cook's location; however, it did not have the desired effect, as she did not surrender.

Next, SEB deployed two flash sound diversionary devices in the direction of Suspect Cook's location to disorient and overwhelm her senses. These, too, did not have the desired effect. Additional chemical agents were again employed, coupled with public address announcements to surrender. Suspect Cook remained steadfast in her position and refused to comply with the requests to surrender. She further maintained possession of her firearm, and kept it focused on the robot.

Deputy Montenegro played a recorded announcement from Suspect Cook's son through the robot's microphone system to gain compliance. Suspect Cook did not surrender her position, or her firearm.

The next tactical option utilized the use of a firehose to douse the area and suspect with water. This was done to further affect the environment and make the suspect uncomfortable. The use of the firehose damaged various areas of the mobile home, and adjacent fence line. This, also, did not have the desired effect on Suspect Cook, and Deputy Montenegro lost sight of Suspect Cook via the robot.

The team noticed an open hatch door that led underneath the patio deck of the mobile home. Believing Suspect Cook was underneath the mobile home and potentially still armed, additional chemical agents were introduced under the patio deck and mobile home. The additional chemical agents had no effect, nor influence, on Suspect Cook. A K-9 was deployed on a long line to assist in determining her whereabouts. The dog alerted at the space between the mobile home deck and the number two side of the mobile home. Verbal announcements were made and Suspect Cook acknowledged she was under the mobile home. She claimed she could not find her way out from underneath the mobile home and had lost her gun when she was wet with the fire hose. As team members directed her to an opening, they saw she was still armed with the handgun in her right hand. When she became aware the deputies knew she was still armed, she crawled away from the opening and into the darkness.

Deputy Montenegro maneuvered the robot underneath the mobile home and located Suspect Cook fifteen feet away from the side of the mobile home. As the robot neared her, Suspect Cook fired two gunshots at the robot. One gunshot rendered the overhead dome camera inoperable; however, Deputy Montenegro was able to maintain a visual of her utilizing the drive camera. He saw she was still in possession of the firearm, so additional chemical agents were deployed along with Clear Out and CS Stingballs. There was no reaction from Suspect Cook.

A tactical caterpillar (TAC-CAT) was used to remove the lower siding to allow a better view of the suspect underneath the mobile home, and to offer her a larger avenue of exit from the crawl space. Deputy Montenegro and CNT members attempted to convince Suspect Cook to surrender; however, she refused.

After the failure of the chemical agents, diversionary devices, firehose, and the continuous pleas to surrender from CNT and SEB personnel, the command staff authorized SEB to utilize less lethal munitions upon Suspect Cook. Suspect Cook was approximately fifteen feet from Deputy and partially hidden behind structural supports for the mobile home. He saw her lower body was wrapped in a heavy blanket and she was attempting to erect a sheet to further conceal herself.

Deputy yelled for Suspect Cook to surrender and told her they did not want to hurt her. Since she did not respond, he used the 40mm launcher to knock down the sheet. After the sheet fell, he was able to see her lower body. He fired two 40mm impact munitions at her lower body and evaluated the effect. He saw the projectiles impact her lower body, but saw no reaction to the noise from the launcher, or pain. He again gave her verbal commands to surrender and she did not respond. He fired two more 40mm impact munitions which impacted her lower body, and saw no reaction to pain. Since the 40mm did not have the desired effect, he switched to the 37mm launcher and fired two foam baton munitions at her lower body. Each foam baton round disperses three soft foam discs that are designed to be used at short distances.

When the smoke and dust settled from the 37mm launcher, he saw Suspect Cook had re-erected the sheet and tangled it into the structural supports. Deputy removed the sheet by impacting it with several 40mm munitions. With the sheet removed, he was able to see she was still wrapped in the blanket. He ordered her to surrender and told her they did not want to injure her. He saw no reaction from her, so he fired four 40mm impact munitions at her lower body, which was wrapped in the blanket. She had no reaction to the impacts and no sign of surrender. He advised his Team Scout (Deputy Ian Stade) and Team Leader (Sergeant Burke) of the lack of success with the impact munitions. With regard to Suspect Cook's health and physical condition, they collectively decided to cease the use of less lethal munitions.

Between twenty to twenty five minutes after Deputy stopped his use of less lethal munitions, Suspect Cook began to crawl further away from the area the team designated for her to surrender. At the direction of Sergeant Burke, Deputy fired one 40mm baton at Suspect Cook with the intent of driving her away from her hiding spot. The baton struck Suspect Cook in the right bicep area. She shifted her body weight after being struck, but showed no indication of being in pain. Since this did not cause her to emerge from her hiding spot, Sergeant Burke directed Deputy discharge one more 40mm baton. She was struck again in the right bicep area and again reacted with no indication of feeling pain, so Deputy did not fire any more munitions.

In the seventeenth hour of this operation, the command staff authorized Canine Services Detail (CSD) Deputy Jurado to utilize his K-9, since all other less lethal options were unsuccessful at resolving the situation. Deputy Jurado called out to Suspect Cook, by name, and offered her an opportunity to surrender. After no response from her, Deputy Jurado employed his K-9. The suspect was between ten to fifteen feet away from the edge of the motorhome at the time the K-9 was employed. As the K-9 made contact, the suspect kicked at the dog. The K-9 secured a bite hold to Suspect Cook's right shin. Suspect Cook grabbed hold of a tire which prevented the K-9 from extracting the suspect from underneath the mobile home. After fifteen to twenty seconds of being in contact with the suspect, Deputy Jurado realized the K-9 had no effect on her; so, he ordered his K-9 to release his bite hold and return to his (Deputy Jurado's) side. CSD Sergeant Cook participated in the tactical planning regarding the use of the K-9.

Approximately one hour later, at the direction of Sergeant Burke, Deputy employed the Taser at Suspect Cook. The Taser was ineffective, as the prongs did not appear to penetrate her skin, and she did not have a reaction. The TASER download printout is included in **EXHIBIT A**.

In the twentieth hour, the command staff left the command post and went to the scene to get a better perspective. A short time later, team members tried to snare the suspect's feet with a dog catcher's pole. Suspect Cook kicked free from the pole when she was close to being snared.

Twenty one hours into the incident, it was decided, the only alternative was for deputies

to crawl underneath the mobile home and apprehend Suspect Cook. Five deputies volunteered to make the apprehension. Deputies Stade, Longan, and approached Suspect Cook from her head area; and Deputies and Miranda approached from the direction of her feet. Deputy Longan was the first to make physical contact with Suspect Cook. Upon contact, she immediately said she gave up and became passive. Deputy Longan handcuffed her with her hands in front of her body. Once Suspect Cook was out from underneath the mobile home, ESD personnel rendered medical attention. Department personnel found her firearm underneath the mobile home, where the deputies took her into custody. The firearm was a .22 caliber Colt, New Frontier. When personnel rendered the revolver safe, it had one live round and five spent casings in the cylinder.

The incident report, supplemental reports, Lost Hills Sheriff Station In-Services, and Suspect Cook's Northridge Hospital Medical paperwork are included with this case in **Exhibit A**.

## **INVOLVED PERSONNEL**

Deputy Sheriff (Bonus - 1), # Special Enforcement Bureau Blue Team Homeland Security Division Date of Employment: Date Assigned to SEB: Prior Shooting Incident(s): Prior Founded Force Incidents: Deputy Sheriff (Bonus - 1), # Special Enforcement Bureau Blue Team Homeland Security Division Date of Employment: Date Assigned to SEB: Prior Shooting Incident(s): Prior Founded Force Incidents: Jurado, Gilbert – Deputy Sheriff (Bonus - 1), # Special Enforcement Bureau Canine Services Detail Homeland Security Division Date of Employment: 10/04/1991 Date Assigned to SEB: 08/22/2010 Prior Shooting Incident(s): Prior Founded Force Incidents:

Deputy Sheriff (Bonus - 1), # Special Enforcement Bureau Blue Team Homeland Security Division Date of Employment: Date Assigned to SEB: Prior Shooting Incident(s):

## INVOLVED SUSPECT

Prior Founded Force Incidents:

Cook, Nancy FW/73, Booking #4341311

DOB: 09/28/41

Address:

Booking Charges: 245(d)(1) PC (Assault with a Deadly Weapon on a Peace

Officer/Firefighter)

245(a)(2) PC (Assault with a Deadly Weapon)

DA Case #LA081091

Criminal History: CII #A35295748

Suspect Cook had Her RAPS printout and felony filing are included with this case as Exhibit B.

### INVESTIGATION

Internal Affairs Bureau investigators interviewed Suspect Cook and the following involved Department personnel: Deputy De
During the interviews, Internal Affairs Bureau investigators used photographs of the scene to help articulate the placement of personnel at the time less lethal weaponry was employed. The photos used by Deputy are <b>Exhibit C</b> , and are introduced on page seven of his transcripts. The photo used by Deputies and Jurado are <b>Exhibit D</b> . On pages three, four, and eleven of his transcripts, Deputy illustrated his position on the photo at the time he employed the 40mm. Pages seven and eight of Deputy Jurado's transcripts, describe where his K-9 entered underneath the mobile home. The photo Deputy used to illustrate where he employed the Taser is <b>Exhibit E</b> , and is discussed on pages seven and eight of his transcripts.

Sergeant Cook narrated a video that illustrated the locations where Suspect Cook barricaded herself. The video was submitted with this case as **Exhibit F**.

While reviewing the reports submitted by the involved employees and their transcripts, IAB investigators realized Sergeant Burke told IAB investigators that the 40mm was employed approximately one hour prior to Suspect Cook being taken into custody. IAB investigators realized none of the involved employees reported or documented employing the 40mm at that approximate time, nor did they indicate it was employed in their interviews with IAB investigators. IAB investigators interviewed Sergeant Burke a second time to further clarify. He indicated he had no recollection of the 40mm being utilized at that time; and in his first interview with IAB investigators, he made that statement merely after using the Special Weapons Team Incident Log as a reference.

IAB investigators interviewed the author of the log, Lieutenant Brandon Dean. Lieutenant Dean was at the command post for the duration of the operation, and made log entries based on radio traffic, or being told that a particular action occurred or there was authorization for an action to occur. He did not have any knowledge if the 40mm was employed at the time in question. He further explained it was possible there was radio traffic indicating authorization to employ the 40mm, and that is why he made the log entry; however, it was very possible the decision was made not to employ it, and he was not advised. The Special Weapons Team Incident Log is included in **EXHIBIT A**.

There was no video surveillance of the incident, nor did Department personnel sustain any injuries. Photos of the scene were included in **EXHIBIT G**.

## SUSPECT INJURIES:

Suspect Cook sustained multiple contusions, lacerations, and abrasions to her arms and legs. She sustained dog bites to her left ankle, right calf and right hand. X-rays indicated a fracture to her right hand and right lower leg. Photos of Suspect Cook's injuries are included in this case and are also on a CD in **Exhibit G**.

Suspect Cook was treated on scene by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Emergency Services Detail personnel. She was transported to Northridge Hospital for medical treatment under patient # Suspect Cook was treated by Doctor Uthaiah Kokkalera. Doctor Kokkalera noted Suspect Cook had multiple lacerations and abrasions to her lower extremities, and fractures to her lower right leg and right hand. Internal Affairs investigators contacted Doctor Kokkalera regarding Suspect Cook's injuries. He stated her fractures were nonoperative, and she was admitted into the hospital due to her altered mental state, hypothermia, the injuries she sustained, an elevated white blood cell count, and high blood potassium level.

Doctor Kokkalera said the fracture to her right leg most likely the resulted from a dog bite. He based this opinion on the fact that it appeared to be the type of fracture from compression, and there were lacerations consistent with a dog bite close to the fracture. He was unable to render an opinion as to what exactly caused the wounds to her right hand, but indicated the fracture was possibly caused by a dog bite.

#### **WEAPONS USED BY DEPUTY PERSONNEL:**

Chemical agents, water, CS Stingballs.

Less lethal weapons: 40mm impact munitions, 37mm foam baton munitions, Taser, K-9.

## WEAPONS USED BY SUBJECT:

Handgun, Colt, New Frontier, revolver, .22 caliber.

## **WEATHER AND LIGHTING CONDITIONS:**

The duration of this incident was twenty one hours. Lighting and weather conditions changed throughout the incident, but were not a factor.

#### RADIO TRANSMISSION:

IAB investigators obtained the 9-1-1 call from Suspect Cook to Lost Hills Sheriff Station, the initial emergent radio traffic from Lost Hills Station patrol units, and the tactical frequencies radio traffic. A Compact Disc, containing the above radio transmissions, is included with this case in **Exhibit H**. SEB utilized Clear One as their tactical frequency for this operation, which is not taped.

# **CHARGES FILED AND DISPOSITIONS:**

Investigators Name: Lost Hills Station Detective Victor Paladino, #

Court: Van Nuys Court

Charges: The District Attorney filed (3) felony charges of 245(d)(1)PC (Assault with

a Deadly Weapon on a Peace Officer/Firefighter), (2) felony charges of 245(a)(2) PC (Assault with a Deadly Weapon), and (1) felony charge of 246.3(a) PC (Discharge of a Firearm with Gross Negligence) against Suspect Cook. (DA Case #LA081091). On September 18, 2015, Suspect Cook was convicted of (1) count of 245 (d)(1) PC, and sentenced to 241

days in jail and 5 years probation.